CLOSED SHELF

The People's Korea

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PEOPLE'S STRUGGLES AGAINST U.S., CHANG MYUN SWEEPING S. KOREA

The S. Korean people's struggles are mounting with every passing day. 15,000 Taegu citizens launched a demonstration on March 22, a demonstration was also conducted in Seoul, participated by 20,000 citizens, and other demonstrations by tens of thousands of citizens in Pusan, Masan and other districts. The demonstrators called out, "Down with the Chang Myun regime!" "Get out, the U.S. forces!" "Let's accomplish unification of South and North!" "Withdraw two evil laws!" "Abrogate the traitorous agreement!"

20,000 Seoul Citizens Demonstrate Against Chang Myun

After the rally, a torch demonstration was held in Seoul on the night of March 22.

About 20,000 Seoul citizens held a rally and staged a big torch demonstration on the afternoon of March 22 to express opposition to "undemocratic, anti-people laws," according to reports from Seoul.

The rally was held at 2 p.m. in the square in front of the Seoul Municipal Office.

The speakers, representing 39 political parties and social organizations took the rostrum and attacked the Chang Myun clique for its plan to frame evil laws.

The speakers unanimously denounced the plot to frame the "Anti-Subversive Extraordinary Law" and the "Law for Regulation of Demonstrations" as aimed at enslaving the Korean people and as directed by the U.S. imperialists.

'Charging that the Chang Myun clique had been continuing a traitorous policy such as that of framing the "'ROK'-U.S. Economic and Technical Agreement," the representatives unanimouslyd eclared that the clique was hell-bent on framing repressive laws, instead of taking measures to save compatriots on the verge of starvation.

The speakers stressed that people felt that their living had been getting worse since the Chang Myun clique came into power. They also called upon all the Seoul citizens to "rise to shatter the plot of the ruling Democratic Party and the Chang Myun administration to frame laws more vicious than Syngman Rhee's 'Security Law.'" The appeal elicited enthusiastic applause from the participants.

Motorized poilce units, troopers and 3,000 other policemen surrounded the square and threatened the participants with arrest if they did not disband immediately.

In spite of these provocative acts by the policemen and terrorists, the meeting was a great success, followed by a demonstration, which started at 5:30 p.m.

As soon as the participants staged a torch demonstration, 500 policemen dashed into the line to take away the torches from the demonstrators.

Demonstrators in front jostled with police and broke through the police cordon, and the demonstration was resumed.

The demonstrators marched through Kwanghwa Mun and Chongro Street toward Euljiro, calling out, "We demand the Chang Myun regime resign!" "Down with Chang Myun, another Syngman Rhee!"

Reaching the National Assembly building from the Namdemun, they staged a sit-down demonstration. Several young demonstrators tore off a placard in front of the Assembly building, reading "We are for National Security Law" and broke it into pieces.

Meanwhile, some 100 demonstrators packed the lobby of the "Bando Hotel" where Prime Minister Chang Myun was staying, and planted themselves there, demanding an interview with him. Surrounded by the armed policemen, they stayed there for as long as one hour, demanding that Chang Myun resign. But they were forcefully dispersed at about 8:40 p.m. by the police. Police arrested 200 demonstrators on that day.

About 300 other participants marched to Chang Myun's private residence at Myungryundong at about 7:50 p.m. When they came to a crossroads at Myungryundong, a police unit dashed into the demonstrators, throwing tear-gas bombs at them. The demonstrators resisted the attack with pebbles and drove them away.

A police car was destroyed and two policemen injured in the melee. The police unit retreated but, reinforced by another unit, dashed back again into the ranks of demonstrators, brandishing truncheons. About 30 demonstrators were arrested there.

15,000 Demonstrate in Taegu

About 15,000 Taegu citizens staged a big demonstration on the afternoon of March 21, denouncing the Chang Myun clique for framing fascistic laws, according to a Tongyang Tongshin report from Taegu.

A citizens' rally against the evil laws was held at the Taegu Station Square at 2:00 p.m., sponsored by the "Kyonbuk (N. Kyohgsang Province) Joint Struggle Committee Against Two Evil Laws." Attending the rally were representatives from four progressive political parties and social organizations, and some 15,000 citizens.

Six representatives made speeches. They pointed out that the Chang Myun clique was hell-bent on formulating various evil laws under the directions of the U.S. imperialists in order to suppress the South Korean people who rose for freedom and living rights.

The speakers unanimously called upon the participants to rise to smash the traitorous intrigues. The appeal won thunderous applause from among the participants. The rally adopted a declaration expressing strong determination to fight for abrogation of the "Anti-Subversive Extraordinary Law" and the "Law for Regulation of Demonstrations."

At about 4:30, a demonstration was held with placards at the head.

The demonstrators marched through the busy streets, calling out "Let's oppose the two evil laws and achieve national unification!"

The Chang Myun clique tried to suppress the demonstration by using "riot" police and terrorists, but in vain.

This was the second mass-demonstration since March 18 when some 10,000 students and citizens staged a demonstration, calling out, "Punish the traitors who are framing evil laws!" "Down with the Chang Myun and overthrow the terroristic rule obstructing peaceful unification of our fatherland!"

Immediate North-South Postal Exchange Urged

In an article contributed to Minjoo Chosun, Cho Hong Yun, Vice-Minister of Communcations, demands an early realization of telecommunication and postal exchange between North and South Korea.

The artificial barrier between the North and South should be removed at the earliest date, he stresses.

Referring to the abnormal and unusual situation created in our country in which our nation of the same blood has lived separated from each other for 16 years, unable to exchange a single letter and not knowing whether each other is dead or alive, the Vice-Minister of Communications ascribes it entirely to the obstructive machinations of the U.S. imperialists.

The realization of postal exchange between the North and South, together with the North-South economic exchange, is the first and foremost question to be solved for achieving the unification of the country, the aspiration of the nation, he points out.

He notes: We can, with our own strength and technique, immediately open telecommunications between Sinuiju, Hesan Chongjin, Hamheung, Wonsan, Kaesong and Pyongyang in the North and Seoul, Inchon, Choonchun, Taegu, Taejon, Mokpo, Koonsan and Pusan in the South. We are also fully prepared to install in a short span of time radio facilities in every nook and corner of South Korea and lay telephone lines there down to myun and rhee.

At the same time we can undertake a project for wiring a direct telegraph and telephone circuits between Pyongyang and Seoul for the normalization of telecommunication between the North and South.

We can supply necessary materials for reviving the paralyzed South Korean communication system and expanding telephone and broadcasting networks and dispatch technicians groups for successfully carrying out the projects.

Ho goes on to say:

How can one oppose free travel and contact and reject postal exchange between parents and children, husbands and wives, relatives and friends because of the political systems and ideology?

Today the world people communicate freely with each other, regardless of their religious faith, political view and social system.

Then, why should we tolerate such tragic situation in which the same people of the same land cannot exchange even letters, though living within calling distance of each other?

Recalling the proposals of Eighth Session of the Second Supreme People's Assembly which set forth programmatic tasks for further promoting the peaceful unification of the country, the Vice-Minister calls upon theSouth Korean communica tion workers to come out as one in the nationwide struggle for realizing the North-South postal exchange and expediting the unification of the country.

He proposes, first of all, to meet in Pyongyang, Panmunjom or Seoul for negotiation.

"Only a few days are left before....."

—Che Jun

DPRK Gov't Decides to Donate 500,000 Bushels of Rice to Food-Short Farmers in S. Korea

Pyongyang, March 20, Korean Central News Agency— The Cabinet of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea decided on March 20 to donate 100,000 suk (one "suk" is approximately equal to 4.9 bushels) of rice to food-short farmers in South Korea. The full text of the decision follows :

Decision No. 42 of the Cabinet of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, March 20, 1961
On the Relief of Food-Short Farmers in South Korea

Farmers in South Korea, once the granary of our country, are in an extremely miserable condition as a result of land devastation and frequent natural disasters, such as floods and droughts, for which the U.S. imperialist rule of colonial spoliation and the puppet authorities' policy of plundering South Korean farmers are responsible.

In January of 1961, the number of food-short households in South Korea exceeded one million, according to conservative figures published by the South Korean puppet authorities, and the number is rapidly increasing of late.

The South Korean farmers on the brink of starvation are waiting for warm helping hands.

Considering it the sublime duty of fraternal love to offer material aid to food-short farmers in South Korea for the purpose of saving them from their hardships and intense sufferings, the Cabinet of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea decides as follows:

1. To donate 100,000 suk of polished rice as relief to food-short farmers in South Korea.
2. To entrust to the Central Committee of the Red Cross Society and the Central Committee of the Farmers' Union of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea the task of taking practical measures to deliver as early as possible the relief rice to food-short farmers in South Korea.

The Cabinet of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is convinced that the measures, based on fraternal love, will be realized at the earliest opportunity to relieve food-short farmers in South Korea from the depth of misery and suffering.

South Korea Hit By Famine

With the off-crop season just around the corner, South Korean farmers are on the brink of starvation.

Kyonghyang Shinmoon reported that hungry farmers at a village near Pohang City are "too weak to move out of bed."

In Yung Chun County, 12,000 farmers are starving. This means that eight or nine out of ten families are suffering from food shortage.

As already reported, food-short farmers numbered some 1,270,000 in Kyongsang Province as of Feb. 7 or more than half of all the farmers there. The number is rapidly on the increase.

Meanwhile, food-short farmers in Pusan, Damyang, Raju, Kurye and Changsung Counties of South Cholla Province are eating grass, roots of trees, and gruel mixed with rice bran to survive, according to a Hapdong Tongshin report of March 11 from Kuangju.

Hungry Pupils Increase to 1,200,000

The Department of Health and Welfare of the Chang Myun regime on March 14 made public the fact that 1,200,000 primary school pupils in South Korea go without lunch. Even this extremely conservative estimate shows that the number of hungry pupils has increased by some 420,000, compared wtih the figure for last October. Most of these pupils are children in villages hit by famine.

According to Hankuk Ilbo, in Milyang County, South Kyongsang Province, the number of primary school children who do not take meals regularly, reaches 11,904, or about half of all the primary school pupils there.

In Iksan County, North Cholla Province, 41 per cent of all the primary school pupils are hungry.

Meanwhile, a total of 10,403 primary school pupils in North Kyongsang Province were forced to leave school between last April and October, before finishing their course unable to pay school expenses, Meil Shin-moon reports from Taegu.

Above: Helping hands needed to these children whose parents died from starvation! (S. Korean Newspaper "Hankuk Ilbo" of March 17.)

Below : Run out of food, Hyun Jong Tae's family in N. Cholla Province eat gruel mixed with grass roots. (S. Korean Newspaper "Minkuk Ilbo" of March 12.)

Farmers in North Cholla Demand Relief Rice

Hundreds of hungry farmers in Sunchang County, North Cholla Province, are gathering in myun-offices almost every day, demanding relief rice, according to a Kyunghyang Shin-moon report.

Almost all of the farmers in the county (some 70,000) are now on the brink of starvation, the paper said. In the county one-third of the families suffer from chronic food-shortage every year.

Meanwhile, most of the families were reportedly run out of food already in February and their living conditions are getting worse day after day.

Chang Myun Regime Demands Surrender of Political Refugee

Shin Hyun Don, Home Affairs Minister of the Chang Myun regime, told reporters on March 16 that he had formally demanded that the Japanese Government surrender an official of his Ministry who had come to Japan on official business, but, refusing to return to South Korea, applied for repatriation to the DPRK. The Minister added that his office is going to check up more carefully the records of public officials, who make official trips abroad.

Li Byung Nam, 26, secretary of the general affairs section of the Home Affairs Department, came to Japan on Dec. 28, last year, as a member of the "Statistical Technicians Delegation" dispatched by the Chang Myun regime.

On Feb. 27, immediately before the class closed, he sought asylum, determined not to work again for the Chang Myun regime and applied for repatriation at the Higashinari Ward Office in Osaka on March 13, saying "After returning to the DPRK, I'll endeavor to realize the peaceful unification of the fatherland."

DPRK Proposes to Deliver Rice at Panmunjom

Kim Eung Ki, chairman of the Korean Red Cross Central Committee, and Kang Keun Jin, chairman of the Korean Farmers' Union, sent on March 20 a letter to various South Korean organizations, including the South Korean Red cross, in connection with the task, with which their organizations are entrusted by the DPRK Cabinet, to deliver as early as possible 100,000 "suk" of rice for the relief of food-short farmers in South Korea, according to a Korean Central News Agency report of March 20 from Pyongyang. The full-text of the letter follows:

March 20, 1961

The President of the South Korean Red Cross Society,
The Chairman of the South Korean Relief Committee for Food-Short Farmers and Destitute People,
The President of the Central Relief Society,
The Chairman of the Christian Relief Committee for Food-Short Farmers,
The Chairman of the Relief Committee in each province,
The representatives of other relief organizations,

All the Korean people are deeply concerned about the recent serious food crisis in South Korea. In South Korea, the number of food-short farming families reaches 1,000,000, and millions of farmers are barely eking out a scanty living by eating grass roots and barks. Besides, great number of jobless persons and orphans in many South Korean cities are on the verge of starvation. South Korean people who are suffering from hunger are demanding that relief measures be taken speedily. At the same time, demonstrations by people demanding distribution of relief rice and many other struggles are frequently occurring. But the present South Korean regime would not and can not take any relief measures to remedy this condition.

The Government of the DPRK approved the decision of the Cabinet to supply 100,000 "suk" of polished rice without compensation in connection with the serious food crisis in South Korea, and has entrusted the Central Committee of the Korean Farmers' Union with speedy measures to deliver it. We inform you that we will deliver, by the authority of the DPRK Government, 100,000 "suk" of relief rice, filled with fraternal love of the people of the northern part of the Republic, to the representatives of the South Korean Red Cross Society and central and provincial relief organizations at Panmunjom or other places. We have already made all preparations to deliver the relief rice.

We are looking forward to your early reply about the plan and the date of receiving the relief rice, hoping that the relief rice, though its amount is not large, will be of some help to save food-short farmers and will be a great joy to them.

Kim Eung Ki, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Red Cross Society,
Kang Jin Keun, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Farmers' Union.

General Association Publishes Statement Supporting DPRK Cabinet Decision

The Central Standing Committee of the General Association of the Korean Residents in Japan published a statement supporting whole-heartedly the DPRK Cabinet decision on the relief of food-short farmers in South Korea. It expressed the hope that the relief rice will be delivered immediately to South Korean farmers.

The statement emphasized that the Cabinet decision was an expression of fraternal love for the South Korean brothers and a concrete manifestation of the policy, consistently followed by the DPRK Government, of saving the South Korean brothers from misery.

Pointing out that the root-cause of the situation of serious food-shortage and of mass starvation in South Korea should be sought in the U.S. imperialists' policy of colonial rule and of spoliation continuing during the past 16 years and the Chang Myun clique's policy of plundering farmers, the statement continued:

"The Chang Myun clique is taking no measures to save South Korean farmers. On the contrary, they are bent on suppressing the people's just struggle for relief rice."

The statement emphasized that the only way to cut out of the present economic catastrophe and to save the unhappy South Korean brothers is to drive out the U.S. imperialist aggressive forces from South Korea as early as possible and to realize South-North contact and interchange and peaceful unification of the fatherland.

The statement demanded strongly that the South Korean authorities offer every possible facility so that the relief rice may be delivered to food-short South Korean farmers.

We Can Meet Friends on the Occasion of A.A. Writers' Conference

The "Emergency Meeting of Afro-Asian Writers' Bureau" is going to be held in Tokyo. At this meeting, we will be able to meet many reliable friends from Afro-Asian countries where people are united in their struggle for independence, freedom and for world peace.

When we talk about Korean literature, we have got to inform you, first of all, of the present situation of our fatherland.

When our nation was liberated from the yoke of the Japanese imperialists on Aug. 15, people in the northern part of the Republic became masters of our fatherland in the true sense of the word.

Under the able leadership of the Korean Workers' Party and of the Government, the people established a new social system, eliminating exploitation of man by man and enthusiastically rose for the construction of a rich and powerful nation.

However, the U.S. imperialists, enemy of world peace, launched the so-called Korean War in order to invade our fatherland militarily. During the three-year patriotic war of liberation, the Korean people, solidly united around the Party and the Government, courageously defended their country against the enemy and defeated it.

After the war, the people fulfilled ahead of schedule the Three-Year Plan for the Reconstruction of People's Economy and accomplished the plan of the 1960 "Adjustment Period." And this year they have started the great Seven-Year Plan.

In this way the northern part of the Republic is marching toward unification of the fatherland, for construction of socialism and for further development of national culture. Realities in the northern part is a great epic and a symphony. The country is full of countless creative labor exploits by the people who firmly uphold proletarian internationalism.

Korean writers have inherited and are developing the glorious traditions of literature and arts spread far and wide in the course of the Anti-Japanese Armed Struggle organized by Premier Kim Il Sung as well as those of the KAPP (Korean Association of Proletarian Writers.)

"History," "The Daedong River," "Brothers," "Love," by Han Sul Ya; "Land," "The Tuman River" by Li Gi Yung; "Phoenix" by Song Yung; "Fatherland" by Pack Ung Gul; "Mt. Bekdu" and "Song of Life" by Jo Ki Chun; "First Crop" by Li Kun Yung; "Early Spring at Sukgeul" by Chun Se Bong; "Faced with ordeals" by Yun Se Jung and so forth: These are but a few of the countless literary works produced in the northern part of the Republic.

The Korean literature has never been so flourishing as it is now, and Korean writers have never lived so happily as they do.

On the other hand, we cannot but get angry at the miserable condition of writers in the southern part under U.S. occupation.

South Korea is fast falling into the depths of moral disintegration and corruption. It is deluged with various reactionary ideologies-pessimistic and misanthropic ideas-and is possessed by "American way of life."

The South Korean authorities are persecuting and suppressing writers who desire national independence and world peace, value human life and wish a happy life for men.

How on earth can literature and arts flourish in South Korea when it is under the yoke of the U.S. imperialists and reactionary groups who are following the policy of obliterating the national culture.

This intolerable situation of South Korea is not changed at all even now when Chang Myun is in power, supplanting Syngman Rhee. This is clearly explained by the fact that the Chang Myun clique on March 22 suppressed by arms tens of thousands of Seoul citizens who rose against the so-called "Anti-Subversive Law" and the "Law for Regulation of Demonstrations."

The Chang Myun clique is also holding "ROK-Japan Talks" in Tokyo with a view to paving the way for a North-East Asian military alliance. The "black" hands lifted against the peaceful unification of Korea are also spread over the Congo, Algeria, Laos, the Taiwan Straits, Cuba and other areas of the world.

In connection with the main item on the agenda of the coming meeting "How can Afro-Asian writers contribute toward easing international tension," we are going to expose the true character of the U.S. imperialists to colonize and militarize South Korea. We will also explain the miserable situation of South Korea and the destruction of national culture by the U.S. occupationists.

We will deepen friendship and strengthen solidarity with our reliable Afro-Asian friends who are courageously fighting for freedom, independence and peace. We are fully determined to march forward with them toward the same goal.

EDITORIAL

We whole-heartedly support the struggle of the S. Korean people against the fascistic laws

The Anti-American struggle of the S. Korean people today exceeds both in strength and scale the April 19 Popular Uprising of last year.

The South Korean people have realized that, no matter who is in power, their living conditions will not be improved so long as the U.S. imperialists' policy of colonial rule continues in South Korea.

This is why they are increasingly rising in the struggle against the U.S. imperialists, demanding, "U.S. aggressive forces, get out of South Korea!" or "Overthrow the Chang Myun regime!" Especially, the South Korean people are now convinced that economic and cultural interchange between South and North and independent, peaceful unification of their fatherland are the only way to survival.

The Chang Myun administration bolstered by the U.S. imperialists, afraid of an upsurge of people's struggles, has recently cast off the mask of "Democracy" to strengthen its suppression of the people by plotting to frame the "Anti-Subversive Extraordinary Law" and the "Law for Regulation of Demonstrations."

The South Korean people express their sentiments in the following words, "The Anti-Communist laws do not serve to improve our living, but only to make us more hungry," "The Anti-Communist laws are without parallel in history."

On March 21, about 15,000 people, including workers, farmers and students staged a demonstration in Taegu. Further, on March 23, about 20,000 people carried out a demonstration in Seoul, demanding immediate retraction of the laws.

The South Korean people's demonstrations against the Chang Myun administration were by no means caused by the so-called "Anti-Communist fifth-columnists" but stemmed from the people's intense hatred for the Chang Myun clique.

Consequently, no power on earth will be strong enough to discourage South Korean people in their struggles.

The South Korean people's just struggle against their fascistic administration supported by all the peoples of good-will throughout the world is sure to win.

Kim Ryun Ih seeing around the hospital with Li Kap Kyoon who was in charge of her treatment.

Blind Woman Regains Her Eyesight

Korean citizens who had been ill-treated and had led a miserable life in Japan are now enjoying a happy life in the northern part of the Republic.

For example, reptaraites from Asakusa in Tokyo are enjoying a new life in free multi-storied apartments—a life which they could not imagine at all in tents below a bridge as they could not afford a house to live in.

A woman repatriated aboard the 11th repatriation ship from Fukuoka regained her eyesight thanks to free medical treatment extended by the Government. She became blind three years ago, owing to hard work and malnutrition.

If she were in Japan, she would be an unhappy blind woman.

Crewmen Bare Spy Activities Against DPRK

Recently, Japanese Public Peace authorities are trying to send spies to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. For instance, the Hamada Maritime Safety Office in Shimane Prefecture charged on Jan. 13 that several Japanese tried to visit the DPRK aboard a fishing boat, the Kyokuyo Maru, to conclude a "Secret Fishing Treaty Between North Korea and Japan" and conduct secret trade with North Korea.

This case, known as "the Kyokuyo Maru incident" was cooked up by the Office in conspiracy with the Japanese Government and the Metropolitan Police Board to conceal their unsuccessful attempt to send, as a spy, Kiyoshige Watanabe into the DPRK, who is a self-styled manager of a firm, "Gassaku Trading Co.."

The truth about the "incident" was disclosed as Toshiaki, Suzaki, 38, and other crew members of the Kyokuyo who were unjustifiably prosecuted in connection with this incident, appealed to the Human Rights Protection Bureau, and brought a law suit against the Japanese Government, demanding damages.

Suzaki and other crew members said that the Japanese Public Peace authorities conspired to employ Watanabe as a spy and send him to the DPRK. Watanabe chartered the Kyokuyo Maru, telling the crew that he was going to conclude a fishing treaty with the DPRK Government in that country. And the Kyokuyo Maru sailed from Ushibuka port in Kumamoto Prefecture for Shinpo port on Dec. 19, last year, after promising the crew that he would pay ¥500,000 as charterage and ¥3,000,000 as reward for the crew when the boat returned home.

The Kyokuyo Maru reached Shinpo port at the end of the month, but his activities were detected and he was interrogated by the DPRK Government authorities.

The boat came back to Sakai port in Shimane Prefecture on Jan. 12.

The crewmen charged that the Japanese Public Peace authorities, who had the understanding of boat's departure and its mission, and gave instruction to the ship directly, framed them up to conceal the actual fact, spreading groundless rumors that their purpose was to conclude a "Secret Fishing Treaty" with North Korea.

Spy Activities Against General Association Exposed

The Japanese Government is making slanderous attacks on the General Association of the Korean Residents in Japan, trying to create impression that the Government should designate the General Association as an organization to which the "Anti-Subversive Law" should be applied.

Recently the General Association of the Korean Residents in Japan has undiscovered a plot of the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Board to intimidate a certain activist of the Association and to obtain "information" from him. The activist was asked on March 2 by two detectives, identified as Shimura and Shirakawa, to accompany to the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Board on the pretext of violation of "Alien Registration Law."

Later, on March 3 and 9, the detectives forced him to meet at a hotel in Tokyo. There he was threatened by them to offer "information" on the activities of the General Association, and in particular to obtain for them policy documents to be submitted to the coming meeting of the Association's Central Committee.

The detectives were caught by the Association's activists in the act of threatening him at a coffee shop "Prince" near Shin-bashi Station in Tokyo.

The General Association is protesting the Metropolitan Police against these acts, producing material evidence in the form of snapshots of the detectives threatening the Korean activist.

PATRIOTIC WORK OF KOREAN CITIZENS IN JAPAN

We defend all the democratic and national rights and interests of the Korean citizens in Japan including the rights to residence, work and to property ownership as well as the freedoms of speech, publication, assembly, association and conscience. (The 3rd item of the program of the General Association of the Korean Residents in Japan.)

Why Did Koreans Come Over to Japan? (2)

After the start of the Pacific War, the shortage of labor power was so acute in Japan that, in November of 1941, the Japanese Government worked out plans to import Korean laborers into Japan more systematically and decided on "an outline program for induction of Korean laborers into Japan" and "detailed enforcement measures and procedures."

In accordance with these measures and plans of the Government, the Government-General of Korea worked out concrete plans for the purpose. Under the newly adopted system, which was called euphemistically the "Government Recommendation System," the Government-General made its local administrative bodies to recruit certain numbers of Korean workers. As will be clear from **Table 2,** Koreans were forcefully recruited by the Government-General and delivered to Japanese enterprisers. After 1939, and particularly during the Pacific War, large numbers of Korean laborers were recruited as "labor conscripts" according to the National Mobilization Program and were brought to Japan. As the result, the number of Koreans in Japan, which stood at 961,591 in 1939, increased to some 2 million in 1944 and to 2.5 million in the following year. This means that nearly 1.5 million Korean laborers were forcefully brought to Japan during a period of about five years from 1940.

In 1943, 43 per cent of all the out-of-pit coal miners in Hokkaido and 65 per cent of the pit workers were Koreans. Further, 35–40 per cent of all the coal mine workers in Japan were Koreans, while 70 per cent of the pit workers engaged in dangerous and harmful work were Koreans.

It must not be overlooked here that conditions favoring forceful recruitment of Korean workers were created, as in Korea as well as in Japan medium and small enterprises not directly contributing to defense production were forcefully disposed of by the Government as "non-essential enterprises" and workers employed at such enterprises were forcefully recruited as "labor conscripts."

In connection with this, it is also worthy of note that large numbers of Korean workers already in Japan were recruited as "labor conscripts" and were forced to work in munition factories.

In the last stage of the war, more forceful and ruthless measures were taken to mobilize Korean man-power for the purpose of prosecuting the war. In 1944, the Japanese Government planned to mobilize as many as 1,340,000 Koreans as labor conscripts, and on Sept. 1 of the same year, the Government-General expanded administrative machinery for the purpose and spawned a foundation called the "Association for the Assistance of Korean Labor Mobilization." This was a non-Governmental organization to push the forceful recruitment of Korean laborers.

In Japan, the "Central Harmonious Cooperation Association" was reorganized into the "Central Rebirth Association" on Nov. 20 of 1944, and Kotaro Nakamura, former Commander-in-Chief of the Japanese armed forces stationed in Korea was appointed president of the association.

Now, let us turn our attention to the living conditions of Koreans in Japan in prewar and wartime years. **Table 3** shows the results of a survey, conducted by the Home Ministry in 1934, of Koreans in Japan according to their occupations.

This table shows that most of the Koreans in Japan were either laborers or jobless persons and that there are few middle class people such as salaried men among Koreans, not to mention capitalistic enterprisers. There were very few Korean technicians employed at larger enterprises, and most of them had to engage in manual labor at dangerous, insanitary work places.

Further, they had to work longer than the Japanese and were paid about half of the wages of the Japanese workers. **Taple 4** shows this situation. The living conditions of Koreans in Japan were particularly miserable. In 1931, there were 310,000 Koreans in Japan. Of this number, only 167,467 had their own homes, while the remaining 47 per cent lived in cheap hotels or in makeshift shacks.

As a colonial people, they were discriminated against the Japanese and it was very difficult for them to rent a house from a Japanese even if they had money to do so.

They were subjected to indignities and were lynched by Japanese mobs. A typical example of this is the massacre of Koreans at the time of the Great Earthquake Disaster of 1923. They had no country, no organ to protect them. They suffered all the hardships of a people without a country.

In work, academic studies, or in ordinary life, Koreans were denied the civil liberties the Japanese people enjoyed. They were constantly watched by the special thought police. Japanese police suppressed Korean intellectuals as ruthlessly and brutally as they did Japanese labor leaders and Communists.

In a word, Koreans in Japan were brought here forcefully by the Japanese imperialists who had expropriated them and who were bent on utilizing them as a means of prosecuting their aggressive war. If they had been free and happy in their native land, there was no reason whatsoever why they should have come over to Japan to work under slavish conditions and suffer inhuman treatment and indignities in a strange land.

Most of the Koreans in Japan are the victims of Japanese imperialism and its policy of colonialist spoliation. This should not be ignored in discussing the question of Koreans in Japan.

Chung Sun OK, an active trade union member, killed by the Japanese imperialists in Iwate Pref., Japan, in 1932.

Korean patriots liberated from Kobe Prison in Japan after the August 15 Liberation of 1945.

Table 2

Korean Laborers Recruited as Labor Conscripts and Forcefully Brought to Japan

Year	Coal Mine	Metal Mine	Construction work	Other industries	Total
1939	24,279	5,042	9,379	...	38,700
1940	35,431	8,069	9,898	1,546	54,944
1941	32,099	8,988	9,540	2,865	53,492
1942	74,576	9,483	14,848	13,100	112,007
1943	65,208	13,660	28,280	15,089	122,237
1944	85,953	30,507	33,382	130,462	280,304
1945*	1,000	...	2,000	3,000	6,000
1939~45	318,546	75,479	107,327	116,062	667,684

* Estimate for the April–June period of 1945.
Source: Welfare Ministry of the Japanese Government

Table 3

Occupation	No. of persons	Percentage
Amusement enterprises	1,040	0.2
Commerce, including peddlers	26,745	5.5
Agriculture, mostly tenant farmers	2,586	0.5
Fishery	266	0.05
Workers	258,929	48.1
Students	6,093	1.1
Primary school pupils	32,243	5.9
Entertainment	5,055	0.9
Other gainfully engaged persons	10,740	2.0
Sojourners	2,365	0.4
Jobless	191,359	35.6
Total	537,695	100.0

Table 4 (Unit–yen)

	Japanese Workers			Korean Workers		
	Total average	Average (male)	Average (female)	Total average	Average (male)	Average (female)
All industries	2.05	2.65	0.98	1.22	1.39	0.81
Ceramics	2.14	2.36	0.93	1.08	1.09	0.81
Metal industries	3.03	3.12	1.27	1.71	1.74	0.86
Machinery, and other manufacturing industries	2.83	2.88	1.45	1.66	1.67	0.83
Chemical industry	2.00	2.35	1.11	1.49	1.63	0.84
Textile industry	1.08	1.63	0.93	1.22	1.34	0.82
Paper manufacturing industry	1.86	2.09	1.03	1.61	1.61	—

Readers' Column

From an Indonesian Friend:
Dear Editor,

This is the first time that I have read your magazine, but after reading only one copy I am very fond of it. So would you be so kind to send me "The People's Korea" regularly.

Thank you a million for your magazine which I expect to receive in the not too far distant future.

Sincerely yours,
From an Indonesian reader.

From a Dutch Friend:
Dear Sir,

We acknowledge receipt of the copies of "The People's Korea," for which we thank you very much. We hope to receive this paper regularly.

We should appreciate highly if you would send us your paper continuously, as we consider it important for the study of social history.

Thanking you in anticipation, we remain.

Yours sincerely,
From a Dutch reader.

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Dear Sirs,

Your copies of "The People's Korea" were very interesting.

We are sure that such a publication would be of very instructive and useful to us.

Therefore I decided to furnish my home library with "The People's Korea," and it would be very much appreciated if you would send your paper regularly and would be also much appreciated if you could place our personal address for your list of regular publications.

With greetings,
Sincerely yours,
From an Indonesian Friend.

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